

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAJ-01 /072 W

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R 051831Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4876

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 29215

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: LB, UN, FR

SUBJECT: QUAI EXPLANATIONS OF GISCARD'S STATEMENT ON
CAMBODIA

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON DECEMBER 5,
QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ASIA (BOLLE) DOWNPLAYED THE
SIGNIFICANCE OF GISCARD'S DECEMBER 4 STATEMENT THAT
FRANCE'S ABSTENTION AT THE UN WAS NOT "A SIGN OF
INDIFFERENCE OF OUR COUNTRY TOWARD THE SUFFERING OF THE
KHMER PEOPLE". (SEE AFP FOR TEXT) BOLLE OFFERED THE
FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

2. RATHER THAN SIGNALLING A NEW INITIATIVE, GISCARD
MERELY REAFFIRMED THAT FRANCE'S POLICY TOWARD CAMBODIA
REMAINED UNCHANGED. SOME PEOPLE HAD INTERPRETED THE
UN VOTE AS MEANING THAT FRANCE WISHED TO "WASH HER
HANDS" OF THE KHMER PROBLEM. GISCARD'S STATEMENT
CORRECTED THIS MISCONCEPTION AND SIGNALLED AGAIN
FRANCE'S "ACTIVE INTEREST" IN CAMBODIA.

3. THE TIMING WAS NOT OF GREAT CONSEQUENCE. GISCARD
SPOKE NOW LARGELY BECAUSE OF THE UN VOTE AND POSSIBLY
TO MAKE SURE THERE WAS NO MISUNDERSTANDING OF FRENCH
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POLICY AT THE TIME OF SUMMIT MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT

FORD AND BREZHNEV. THE STATEMENT HAD ABSOLUTELY NO CONNECTION WITH LE DUC THO'S VISIT.

4. GISCARD'S DECISION TO ISSUE THE STATEMENT IN HIS OWN NAME WAS "NOT EXTRAORDINARY". "IT WAS NORMAL" FOR FRENCH CHIEFS OF STATE TO MAKE PRONOUNCEMENTS FROM TIME TO TIME ON INDOCHINA, BOLLE SAID.
RUSH

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